

REMARKS

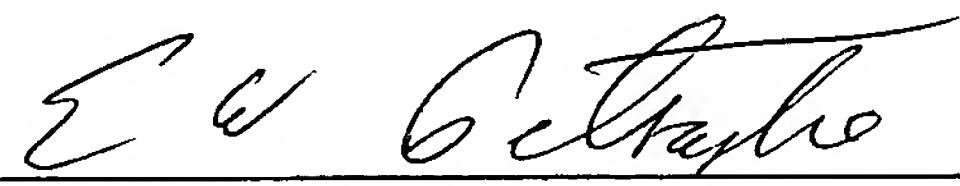
- 1 Applicants elect Group 1 (claims 1 - 18 and 23 - 24), Species 1 (claims
2 1 - 11 and 23) without traverse.
- 3 Applicants elect A1, copper.
- 4 Applicants elect B1, TaN.
- 5 Applicants elect C1, TaN.
- 6 Applicants elect D1, argon.
- 7 Applicants elect E1, depositing a liner layer, then removing the liner layer.
- 8 Applicants elect F1, depositing the second liner layer on the lower
9 interconnect.
- 10 Applicants agree that claims 1 - 11 and 23 read on Species I.
- 11 Applicants traverse the examiner's requirement to elect a member of
12 groups A - F. The examiner has not indicated what response he intends to

1 the election, but an obvious possibility is the searching of only the elected
2 member of the group; e.g. only TaN in group B.

3 Applicants note that claims 3, 4 and 5 contain Markush groups and expect
4 to receive an action from the examiner dealing with all members of the
5 group.

6 Allowance of the claims is respectfully solicited.

7 Respectfully submitted,
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